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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
Masaru ISHIHARA et al. : GROUP ART UNIT: 1651
SERIAL NO: 09/435,613 : EXAMINER: F. PRATS
FILED: NOVEMBER 8, 1999 :
FOR: MODIFIED BACTERIAL CELLULOSE

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Official Action dated February 8, 2001, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 19.

Please amend the claims as follows.

9. (Amended) A method of producing a bacterial cellulose, comprising:
culturing cellulose-producing bacteria which produce the bacterial cellulose extracellularly in a culture medium containing a cell division inhibitor, wherein the bacteria produce a bacterial cellulose comprising ribbon-shaped microfibrils having a width of 160 to 1000 nm.